



PLACER COUNTY
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STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 10/18/01, 9:15 A.M.

DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: OFFENSE ON 12/12/00
CONVICTION ON 10/15/01

NATURE OF CALL: CONVICTION OF DONNIE CULLEN FOR CHILD
MOLESTATION IS RESULT OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
INVESTIGATION

LOCATION OF CALL: FORESTHILL, CALIFORNIA

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

On 10/15/01 Donald R. Cullen, age 33, was convicted of several offenses, including the sexual molestation of a 7-year-old girl in the bedroom of her home. In the early morning hours of 12/15/00, Cullen snuck into the victim's home and bedroom and sexually molested the 7-year-old. This successful investigation and prosecution was the direct result of the Multiple Disciplinary Response that is utilized in Placer County for response to these types of crimes. The response procedure is spelled out in several "protocols" that have been agreed upon by several different agencies in the county to include law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, Placer County Child Protective Services and County Counsel.

The two "protocols" that were utilized in this investigation were the Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center (MDIC) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). In this case, the victim was interviewed on the morning of the assault by an interview specialist at the District Attorney's MDIC Child Interview Center. Observing this interview were members of the Sheriff's Office, a deputy District Attorney, a Child Protection Agency (ACCESS) caseworker, and a representative from County Counsel. The purpose of this system of interviewing is to conduct a one-time comprehensive interview of the child that meets the needs and answers the questions that arise from each representative's perspective. As a result of this interview, information was obtained from the victim that led to an immediate SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) examination. The results of that examination resulted in the collection of DNA evidence that led to the conviction of Cullen, who had only been identified as a potential suspect at that time.

"My belief is that this case alone would justify all the hard work and dedication of lots of individuals from all the involved agencies that created these protocols. We, in fact, use these disciplines routinely but, in this case, they worked perfectly"—Detective Sgt. Bob McDonald, Placer County Sheriff's Office. "It is important that the public knows to what extent this county has gone to bring a successful resolution to these most serious crimes and circumstances."

RELEASED BY DETECTIVE SGT. BOB MCDONALD
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